CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Original) A method for broadcasting an announcement signal, comprising:

broadcasting a network identifier signal that uniquely identifies a computer network;

broadcasting an authorizer signal that identifies an authorizer network address on the computer network, the authorizer network address being associated with an authorizer that is configured to authorize mobile clients to utilize the computer network; and

broadcasting a verifier signal that identifies a verifier network address on the computer network, the verifier network address being associated with a verifier that is configured to verify data packets sent by mobile clients utilizing the computer network.

2. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each signal is broadcast periodically.

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network identifier signal, the authorizer signal and the verifier signal are broadcast together in an announcer signal.

4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the authorizer network address and the verifier network address are Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.

5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the verifier is preferred verifier, and the method further comprises substituting a network address of an alternate verifier for the network address of the preferred verifier.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 5, further comprising determining if the preferred verifier has reached a load threshold, and wherein the substituting is performed if the load threshold is reached.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 5, further comprising detecting a preferred verifier failure, and wherein the substituting is performed if the preferred verifier fails.

8 – 44. (Canceled).

45. (Withdrawn) A method implemented at least in part by a computer, comprising:

broadcasting an announcer signal identifying a network and a network address of an authorizer in the network;

receiving at the network address of the authorizer and from a mobile client that received the announcement signal and is not yet authorized to access the network, a request to obtain authorization to access the network;

transmitting, responsive to receiving the request, an authorization key indicating that the mobile client is authorized to access the network and enabling the mobile client to create a tag using the authorization key;

receiving, responsive to the transmitting and from the mobile client, data packets having the tag;

verifying that the tag is valid based on the authorization key; and

forwarding the data packets having the tag to the network.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the announcer signal further comprises a network address of a verifier in the network and the acts of receiving data packets, verifying, and forwarding are performed by the verifier.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the network comprises subnets, a first subnet accessible through the first network address of the first authorizer and a second subnet accessible through a second network address of a second authorizer.

48. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 47, further comprising receiving, at the second network address of the second authorizer and from the mobile client, data packets having the tag, and forwarding the data packets having the tag to the network without having to transmit the authorization key to the mobile client.

49. (Withdrawn) A method implemented at least in part by a computer, comprising:

broadcasting a first announcer signal identifying a first subnet of a network and a first network address of a first authorizer in the first subnet of the network;

broadcasting a second announcer signal identifying a second subnet of the network and a second network address of a second authorizer in the second subnet of the network;

receiving at the first network address of the first authorizer and from a mobile client that received the first announcement signal, a request to obtain authorization to access the network;

authorizing the mobile client access to the first subnet of the network;

receiving at the second network address of the second authorizer and from the mobile client responsive to the mobile client receiving the second announcement signal, a request to obtain authorization to access the network; and

authorizing the mobile client access to the second subnet of the network.

50. (New) A system comprising:

a computer network;

an authorizer;

a verifier;

a signal generator that generates at least one signal for communication, the at least one signal comprising of:

a network identifier signal that identifies the computer network;

an authorizer signal that identifies an authorizer network address on the computer network, the authorizer network address associated with the authorizer that is configured to authorize mobile clients to utilize the computer network; and

a verifier signal that identifies a verifier signal that identifies a verifier network address on the computer network, the verifier network address associated with the verifier that is configured to verify data packets sent by the mobile clients utilizing the computer network.

51. (New) The system as recited in claim 50, wherein the at least one signal is broadcast periodically.

52. (New) The system as recited in claim 50, wherein the network identifier signal, the authorizer signal and the verifier signal are broadcast simultaneously in an announcer signal.

53. (New) The system as recited in claim 50, wherein the authorizer network address and the verifier address are Internet Protocol addresses.

54. (New) The system as recited in claim 50, wherein the verifier is a preferred verifier, and the system further comprises substituting a network address of an alternate verifier for the network address of the preferred verifier.

55. (New) The system as recited in claim 54, wherein the substituting occurs when the preferred verifier has reached a load threshold, the load threshold being the highest rate of use that is acceptable for the preferred verifier.

56. (New) The system as recited in claim 54, wherein the substituting occurs when detecting a preferred verifier failure.

57. (New) A computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions stored thereon that direct one or more computers to perform operations including:

broadcasting a network identifier signal that uniquely identifies a computer network;

broadcasting an authorizer signal that identifies an authorizer network address on the computer network, the authorizer network address being associated with an authorizer that is configured to authorize mobile clients to utilize the computer network; and

broadcasting a verifier signal that identifies a verifier network address on the computer network, the verifier network address being associated with a verifier that is configured to verify data packets sent by mobile clients utilizing the computer network.

58. (New) The computer-readable storage medium recited in claim 57, wherein each signal is broadcast periodically.

59. (New) The computer-readable storage medium recited in claim 57, wherein the network identifier signal, the authorizer signal and the verifier signal are broadcast together in an announcer signal.

60. (New) The computer-readable storage medium recited in claim 57, wherein one or both of the authorizer network address and the verifier network address are Internet Protocol addresses.

61. (New) The computer-readable storage medium recited in claim 57, wherein the verifier is a preferred verifier and the operations further comprise substituting a network address of an alternate verifier for the network address of the preferred verifier.

62. (New) The computer-readable storage medium recited in claim 61, further comprising determining when the preferred verifier has reached a load threshold, and wherein the substituting is preformed when the load threshold is reached.

63. (New) The computer-readable storage medium recited in claim 61, further comprising detecting a preferred verifier failure, and wherein the substituting is performed when the preferred verifier fails.